

General Permit for Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities (Multi-Sector General Permit)

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my facility required to have permit coverage?

Stormwater discharges associated with a regulated industrial activity to surface waters of the State or to an MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) are required to be covered under an LPDES permit. Most facilities are eligible for coverage under the multi-sector general permit (MSGP) for their stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity. If your facility's primary activity, identified by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code is listed in Table 1 of the general permit or in LAC 33:IX 2511.B.14, you must apply for coverage. Some facilities may be required to obtain an LPDES individual permit for their stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity if there is reasonable potential for the stormwater discharge to contribute to a violation of water quality standards.

Can my facility be exempted from the requirement to obtain NPDES permit coverage?

Yes, some facilities may qualify for the conditional "no exposure" exclusion from the requirement to obtain LPDES permit coverage. Facilities qualifying for no exposure must submit a certification form once every five years.

The "no exposure" certification form may be found on the LPDES applications page (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=1837>).

How do I obtain coverage under the Multi-Sector Generic Permit (MSGP)?

Apply for permit coverage by completing the notice of intent (NOI) for coverage under the MSGP. The MSGP is a self-implementing permit; permit applicants who submit a **complete and accurate** NOI are authorized to discharge upon submittal of a hand-delivered NOI or 48 hours after the date that the NOI is postmarked. You must certify in the NOI that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been developed prior to submitting the NOI.

The form is MSGP-G and can be found on the LPDES applications page (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=1837>).

How do I determine my facility's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code?

The SIC code system is maintained by the US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and is available for searching at www.osha.gov/oshstats/sicser.html. Note also that SIC codes are typically required on other forms submitted to the government (e.g., Federal tax return, etc.) so you may look to those sources of information.

What if my facility operations change and I need to update or change my SIC code?

You may submit a letter of notification to the Water Permits Division, identifying the correct SIC code(s) for the facility. You must also certify that your SWPPP has been updated to reflect and changes in Sector requirements based on the SIC code.

How do I renew coverage under the Multi Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity?

Facilities do not need to reapply upon reissuance of the MSGP; automatic reauthorization is granted for facilities covered under the previous permit. LDEQ mails out reauthorization letters to permittees after the general permit is reissued. It is the permittee's responsibility to keep LDEQ apprised of the current mailing address and water permits contact person.

Can my permit be transferred to a new owner or operator?

No, the MSGP is not transferable. The prior owner/operator must submit a notice of termination (NOT) and the current owner/operator must submit a new NOI.

Termination forms can be found at

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2562>.

Am I required to submit DMRs (Discharge Monitoring Reports)?

All sectors of the MSGP require "quarterly visual examination" of stormwater discharges. The visual examination is considered monitoring, however, analytical tests are not required and results are not required to be submitted to LDEQ. The results of the quarterly visual examinations are required to be kept by the facility with their stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP).

Some sectors of the MSGP require quarterly analytical monitoring in years two and four of the permit cycle. This monitoring is referred to as "benchmark monitoring." The results of the analytical tests for the benchmark monitoring are required to be submitted to LDEQ.

A few sectors of the MSGP impose numeric effluent limitations. Numeric effluent monitoring is conducted annually if the industry type is listed in Table 5.2 of the MSGP. The monitoring required to demonstrate compliance with the effluent limitations is called "compliance monitoring." Analytical results from compliance monitoring are required to be submitted to LDEQ.

Facilities that discharge to an impaired water body without an approved TMDL are required to monitor for the causal pollutant(s) (i.e. suspected causes of impairment identified in the 303(d) list) if:

1. the facility has reasonable potential to discharge the pollutant(s); AND
2. a standard analytical method exists.

Facilities that discharge to an impaired water body with an approved TMDL are required to monitor for the causal pollutants if:

1. the approved TMDL assigns a waste load allocation to specific pollutant(s) in storm water; AND
2. the facility has reasonable potential to discharge the pollutant(s).

How do I report analytical monitoring results (if benchmark/compliance monitoring required)?

Reporting of results is done using Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) that are available for downloading from

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/WaterEnforcement.aspx>.

My facility is in a sector that requires benchmark monitoring. When am I required to monitor?

Benchmark monitoring is required in years two and four of your permit coverage. For facilities permitted under the MSGP, issued May 4, 2011, year two is 2012 and year four is 2014. Quarterly sampling is required during your monitoring year(s). The quarters are calendar quarters (i.e., Jan.– Mar., Apr.– Jun., Jul.– Sep., and Oct.– Dec.). You are required to obtain at least one sample, if you have a qualifying discharge event, during each quarter, and record each sampling event on a separate DMR. If there is no qualifying discharge event for a given quarter, you will need to complete a DMR for that quarter with the “no discharge” indicator block marked.

What is the deadline for submitting my benchmark monitoring DMRs?

Save and submit all results for each benchmark year in one package by January 28, 2013 for year two and January 28, 2015 for year four.

How do I determine if the Impaired Waters/TMDL monitoring applies to my facility?

You must first determine which subsegment (water body) to which your facility ultimately discharges. You may utilize LDEQ’s Interactive Mapping Application, available on LDEQ’s website: <http://ldeq-arcgis.ldeq.org/Geocortex/Essentials/Web/viewer.aspx?Site=LIMA>. Select the LDEQ Subsegments layer and enter the facility’s coordinates.

When you have determined the subsegment number, open Appendix A of the most recent, EPA-approved Water Quality Integrated Report and search for your subsegment number (<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/WaterQualityAssessment/WaterQualityInventorySection305b.aspx>). Subsegments that are impaired for specific pollutants are listed as category “5”; subsegments for which a TMDL has been developed are listed as category “4a”.

You may need to review the TMDL documents to determine if a waste load allocation has been assigned to storm water from industrial facilities. All TMDL documents (both LDEQ and EPA developed) can be downloaded from:

http://iaspub.epa.gov/tmdl_waters10/attains_impaired_waters.tmdls?p_state=LA.

What are the differences between the 2011 MSGP and the 2006 MSGP?

The final permit limits and conditions are similar to those contained in the May 2006 version of the permit except:

- The permit contains requirements for new and existing discharges to impaired waters with or without approved or established TMDLs.
- LDEQ has clarified the expectation of operators to meet antidegradation requirements, including requirements for proposed discharges to Outstanding Natural Resource Waters.
- The following benchmark values have been significantly reduced: ammonia; arsenic; cadmium; copper; cyanide; mercury; nickel; selenium; silver; turbidity.
- Options have been provided to allow for exceptions from benchmark monitoring when natural levels are responsible for exceedances of the benchmark value.
- Addendum A has been revised to clarify the endangered species requirements.
- Addendum B (Protection of Historic Properties) has been modified to include control measures that involve subsurface disturbance of less than one acre of land.
- Corrective actions in Part 5.8 have been strengthened.
- A waiver provision has been provided for inactive and unstaffed sites.
- The application of the effluent limits affecting storm water discharges from coal storage piles has been modified from prior permits so that only steam electric generating facilities are regulated.
- Sector-specific requirements are clarified to highlight the fact that benchmark limits and effluent limitations guidelines apply to different discharges at a facility.
- Significant sector-specific changes have been made to the following:
 - Sector A: benchmark values for total zinc and total copper have been revised; total chromium and phenols have been deleted;
 - Sector C: SIC code 2911 has been moved from Sector I to Sector C; benchmark values for total lead and total zinc have been revised;
 - Sector E: SIC codes 3262-3269 were changed to 3261-3269;
 - Sector F: benchmark values for total zinc and total copper were revised;
 - Sector G: the scope of the permit coverage and requirements of the routine inspections and visual assessment waivers were revised; definitions were updated; benchmark values for turbidity, total antimony, total arsenic, total cadmium, total copper, total lead, total nickel, total silver, and total zinc were revised;
 - Sector H: added definitions and conditional exemptions; added language to distinguish between permit termination eligibility requirements for sites reclaimed after December 17, 1990;
 - Sector I: deleted SIC code 2911 and moved to Sector C; clarified that discharges of storm water from associated oil field service, supply, and repair services are not exempt from LPDES permit coverage; deleted table I-3 monitoring requirements;
 - Sector J: Added SIC Code 1446; clarified that "uncontaminated" groundwater seepage is an allowed discharge under the permit;
 - Sector K: clarified that disposal facilities that have been properly closed and capped do not need LPDES coverage; benchmark values for ammonia, total magnesium, total arsenic, total cadmium; total cyanide, total lead, total mercury, total selenium, and total silver have been revised;
 - Sector L: revised Sector L description;
 - Sector M: benchmark value for total lead has been revised;
 - Sector N: clarified that Table N-1 does not apply to SIC code 5093; added inspection requirements and requirements for eliminating exposure.
 - Sector O: language added to clarify the types of facilities that are covered in this sector;
 - Sector P: the potential pollutant sources and documentation requirements have been revised;

- Sector Q: benchmark values for total lead and total zinc have been revised;
- Sector S: benchmark value for ammonia has been revised; additional monitoring requirements for deicing activities have been added; good housekeeping requirements have been added;
- Sector T: clarified applicable lands and areas required to have coverage;
- Sector V: changed Sector description;
- Sector Y: benchmark values for total zinc and total lead have been revised;
- Sector AA: benchmark value for total zinc has been revised;
- Sector AC: deleted total recoverable lead and copper from the monitoring requirements.